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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/914,969	09/06/2001	Randall S. Estep	79493-PCT	6639

7590

03/04/2004

Welsh & Katz
22nd Floor
120 South Riverside Plaza
Chicago, IL 60606

EXAMINER

CHANG, KENT WU

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2673

DATE MAILED: 03/04/2004

7

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/914,969

Applicant(s)

ESTEP, RANDALL S.

Examiner

Kent Chang

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 September 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2 & 5. 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 9/6/01 and 2/15/02 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and all of the references listed in the IDS have been considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1- are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hales (US Patent No. 6,360,182) in view of Larson (US Patent No. 6,066,129).

Hales discloses an underwater diving mask for use by a diver in an underwater diving environment, the diving mask comprising: a viewing portion defined by the diver's face and a lens; a visual display device proximate the viewing portion to provide visual images to the diver; a computer system disposed in a portion of the mask and operatively coupled to the visual display device; operation control switches or other types of input devices (114, see column 9 lines 20-24, and Fig.3). Hales is silent in using a speech recognition system for data inputting.

However, Larson teaches using a speech recognition system for data inputting in a head-up display. The device of a Larson includes a speaking chamber configured to

sealing engage a portion of the user's mouth to permit the user to speak; a sound transducer (inherent from the microphone and the sound to signal converter) located proximal the speaking chamber; the computer system, the viewing portion and the speaking chamber sealing isolated from the outside environment; and the computer system receiving electrical signals produced by the sound transducer and configured to recognize and identify the electrical signals as spoken words of the user, the identified spoken words providing input to the computer; to direct the computer system to provide visual images to the visual display in response thereto to facilitate hands-free operation of the user (see column 14 line 40 to column 15 line 5). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a speech recognition system for data inputting (as recited in claims 1 and 6-8) as taught by Larson in the device of Hales so as to provide a fast, easy to operate, and hands-free input device.

Consider claims 2 and 3. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the computer system in the diving mask of Hales as modified is operatively coupled to the display device by short length of cabling so that no external cabling extends from the diving mask in a region defined by the diver's head portion to a part of the diver located away from the diver's head, or such that no wiring or tether external to the diving mask is required so that the user is not obstructed by the display and the computer.

Consider claims 4 and 5. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a sound transducer selected from the group

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consisting of a microphone, crystal microphone, piezoelectric transducer, throat/larynx transducer and vibration transducer; a computer system selected from the group consisting of a computer, microprocessor, RISC processor, single-chip computer, single-board computer, controller, micro-controller and discrete logic computer; a display device selected from the group consisting of a liquid crystal display, LED display, electro-fluorescence display, gas plasma display, prism-type optic display, prismatic projection system and cathode ray tube; a non-volatile storage operatively coupled to the computer system, the non-volatile storage selected from the group consisting of a ROM, PROM, EPROM, flash memory, optical memory, static memory, bubble memory, memory sticks and hard disk memory since it merely depends on the availability of the elements and the system configuration and cost requirement. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that any of the above elements would perform equally well.

Furthermore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include other well known methods for data inputting and computer operation such as menu selection, digital camera control applications, life support applications, general purpose applications, gyroscopic/inertial sensor applications, transmitter and receiver applications and power management applications as recited in claims 9-14 so as to enable the user to perform different task and provide more choices to the user to control the operation of the computer.

Claims 15-18 recites similar limitations as claims 1-14, thus note the rejections above.

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kent Chang whose telephone number is 703-305-4824. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin Shalwala, can be reached at 703-305-4938.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

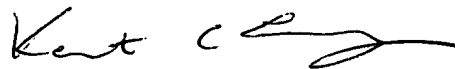
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is 305-9700.



Kent Chang
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2673

Kc

2/27/04